

To: Adam Broderick[adam@crestedbuttenews.com]
Cc: Hanley, Jim[Hanley.James@epa.gov]
From: Progeess, Christina
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 5:08:15 PM
Subject: Re: Animas vs. Coal Creek

Hi Adam,

I'm on vacation right now but recognize the importance of the issue and your short timeline so I'll try to briefly respond. I've also included my colleague Jim Hanley on this email so he can add to this.

EPA is very concerned about what's happened at the Gold King mine and the management team at Standard mine have plans in place to help reduce the likelihood of a similar event happening there. There are several differences between the Gold King and Standard. First, we've been inside the standard and have a much better understanding of the water levels inside the Standard mine. Second, We've been characterizing The water inside the mine, and the water levels for years. The workings within the Standard mine are not completely full of water. We are driving a new tunnel to intercept existing workings behind collapses within the lowest level if the mine. We have precautions in place such as containment ponds to trap sediment and water as it flows from the workings and will be treating this water as it comes out prior to discharging it to elk creek. We also have a communication plan set up with the CB water treatment plant whereby we will notify them if a major release of contaminated water were to occur as a result of our work at Standard. This will allow them to switch to an alternate drinking water source if necessary.

Jim please feel free to add any additional information you feel would be helpful to Adam as he writes his article. Adam, if you'd like additional information, please contact Jim in my absence at his email address above. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 10:35 AM, Adam Broderick <adam@crestedbuttenews.com> wrote:

Christina,

Adam here, *Crested Butte News*. I read about the Animas river being polluted by mine water and it makes me wonder what the EPA's perspective is on the possibility of something like this happening in Coal Creek and Crested Butte. Could what happened there happen here?

I'd like to give our readers a news brief in this week's paper so if you can find time to respond before EOD Tuesday that would be awesome. I actually wrote an update last week on the Standard Mine cleanup project, so this is great timing.

Thank you for any information you can provide,

Adam

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